

Office of Cultural Diversity

Springfield Public Schools

Dr. Nate Quinn,
Coordinator of Cultural Diversity
Ms. Gwen Marshall,
Cultural Diversity Specialist



Diversity Quotes

One day our descendants will think it incredible that we paid so much attention to things like the amount of melanin in our skin or the shape of our eyes or our gender instead of the unique identities of each of us as complex human beings.

Franklin Thomas

Ultimately, America's answer to the intolerant man is diversity, the very diversity which our heritage of religious freedom has inspired.

Robert F. Kennedy

Getting To Know Yourself

Sefaen Saifer, Keisha Edwards, Debbie Ellis, Lena Ko, and Amy Stuczynski, 2011. Culturally Responsive Standards Based Teaching. Corwin Publishing.

The following questions are from "Culturally Responsive Standards Based Teaching by Saifer, Edwards, Ellis, Ko, and Stuczynski. These questions address the issue of "Getting to Know Yourself."

Getting to Know Yourself as a Student

- What were your educational experiences as a youth? How would you describe the schools you attended? What were you successful at, and why? What did you struggle with, and why? What was your most memorable grade or stage in school? Why?
- As a youth, how did your family culture support your school interest?
- Did your family culture ever clash with school culture? If so, in what ways and how did it affect you?
- Did you have a favorite or powerful teacher? If yes, what made him or her your favorite? If not, describe the kind of teacher you would have liked to have had.

Getting to Know Yourself as a Teacher

- Why did you choose teaching as a career?
- How would your students describe you as a teacher? How would their families describe you?
- What have you learned about yourself (as a student and as a teacher) that can be used to enhance your teaching, motivate your students, or make your curriculum more meaningful?

Getting to Know Your Cultural Self

- What was your cultural situation growing up? Think about where you lived, your class or socioeconomic status, ethnic or cultural background, religious or spiritual traditions, and gender. How did all these things influence you?
- Describe your cultural situation today. How do you identify racially or ethnically? Who is your family? What is your socioeconomic class? What spirituality do you practice? Where do you live and why do you live there?